

CLAIMS: *This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Claim 1 (*Currently Amended*): A low liquid retention fuel dispensing nozzle comprising:

a generally tubular spout attached to said nozzle for directing a fuel supply from a valve within said nozzle to a discharge end of said spout, said supply of fuel having a surface tension;

a first surface of said spout in direct contact with said fuel supply;

a second surface of said spout that may be in indirect contact with said fuel supply; and,

wherein said first surface or said surface has a surface energy less than ~~aluminum~~ said surface tension of said supply of fuel.

Claim 2 (*Currently Amended*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 1, wherein said first surface or said second surface is made from a material of the fluoropolymer family.

Claim 3 (*Previously Presented*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 1, wherein said first surface includes an assembly for reducing drips.

Claim 4 (*Previously Presented*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 1, wherein said spout is configured as a vapor recover spout.

Claim 5 (*Previously Presented*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 1, wherein said second surface has 3 or more ribs.

Claim 6 (*Previously Presented*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 1, wherein said second surface is electrically insulating.

Claim 7 (*Currently Amended*): A low liquid retention fuel dispensing nozzle comprising:

a generally tubular spout attached to said nozzle, said spout having a first end for receiving a fuel supply from said nozzle and a second end for dispensing said fuel supply;

an ~~first~~ inside surface of said spout for directing said fuel from said first end to said second end of said spout;

an ~~second~~ outside surface of said spout, wherein said outside surface may be in indirect contact with said fuel supply[,]; and,

wherein said ~~first~~ inside surface or said ~~second~~ outside surface of said spout has a surface energy less than 30 dynes per centimeter.

Claim 8 (*Currently Amended*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 7, wherein said inside surface or said outside surface is made from a material of the fluoropolymer family.

Claim 9 (*Currently Amended*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 7, wherein said ~~first~~ inside surface includes an assembly for reducing drips.

Claim 10 (*Previously Presented*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 7, wherein said spout is configured for vapor recovery.

Claim 11 (*Currently Amended*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 7, wherein said ~~second~~ outside surface of said spout contains 3 or more ribs.

Claim 12 (*Previously Presented*): A fuel dispensing nozzle as recited in claim 7, wherein said spout is removably attached to said nozzle.

Claim 13 (*Previously Presented*): A method of reducing fuel retention on a generally tubular fuel dispensing spout, the method comprising: manufacturing one or more surfaces of said spout to have a surface energy less than 30 dynes per centimeter.

Claim 14 (*Previously Presented*): The method of claim 13, wherein said spout includes surfaces for reducing drips from said spout.

Claim 15 (*Previously Presented*): The method of claim 13, wherein said spout includes one or more vapor recovery channels.

Claim 16 (*Previously Presented*): The method of claim 13, wherein said surfaces are applied by a coating process.

Claim 17 (*Previously Presented*): The method of claim 13, wherein one or more of surfaces is electrically insulating.

Claim 18 (*Previously Presented*): The method of claim 13, wherein said spout is constructed in whole from low surface energy material.

Claim 19 (*Previously Presented*): The method of claim 13, wherein said spout has 3 or more protective ribs.

Claim 20 (*Currently Amended*): The method of claim 13, wherein said one or more surfaces is of made of a material from the fluoropolymer family.

Claim 21 (*New*): A fuel dispensing apparatus, comprising:

a generally tubular spout fabricated from a rigid material having a first end for receiving a supply of fuel and a second end for discharging said supply of fuel;

said spout having a wall connecting said first end and said second end; and,

wherein at least a portion of said wall is coated with a low surface energy material capable of creating a non-wetting condition with said fuel.

Claim 22 (*New*): A fuel dispensing apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein said spout is configured as a vapor recovery spout.

Claim 23 (*New*): A fuel dispensing apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein said spout includes an assembly for reducing drips.